

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234261

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN, US

SUBJECT: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

1. THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE HAS NOW ASKED THAT STATE AS WELL AS AID SEND A WITNESS TO THE SEPTEMBER 23 HEARINGS. NEA DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUBS WILL BE DEPARTMENT WITNESS WHILE ART GARDINER WILL SPEAK ON ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS. IN PREPARATION FOR THIS PRESENTATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING BY IMMEDIATE CABLE THE LATEST EMBASSY ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS CURRENTLY UNDER DETENTION IN INDIA IN CONNECTION WITH THE EMERGENCY, AS WELL AS LATEST OFFICIAL GOI STATEMENT ON THIS. PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE THE ESTIMATED NUMBER OF THOSE PERSONS WHO ARE BEING DETAINED FOR PURELY POLITICAL REASONS.

2. THE ADMINISTRATION WITNESS WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS OF TORTURE AND MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS, ESPECIALLY AS THIS WAS EXPLICITLY RAISED BY MRS. FERNANDES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S COMMENT ON THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED REPLY. QUOTE. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME ALLEGATIONS OF TORTURE SINCE THE IMPOSITION OF THE
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EMERGENCY. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, NO CONFIRMATION. BECAUSE OF

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARRESTED, THERE MAY WELL BE INSTANCES
OF MISTREATMENT BY POLICE OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO

BASIS FOR CONCLUDING THAT INHUMANE TREATMENT OF POLITICAL
PRISONERS IS WIDESPREAD. IT IS NOT AN OFFICIALLY
SANCTIONED PRACTICE IN INDIA. UNQUOTE.

3. PLEASE ALSO PROVIDE US LATEST FIGURE ON NUMBER OF
MPS UNDER DETENTION. ROBINSON

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